

## **VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT**

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW:** The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs was awarded \$808,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds through the Victims of Crime Act. As stated in the Catalog for Federal Domestic Assistance, the objectives for these funds follow:

*The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) will award each eligible state victim assistance program a Recovery Act - VOCA victim assistance formula grant to support the provision of services to victims of crime throughout the Nation. Services are defined as those efforts that (1) respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; (2) assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after a victimization; (3) assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and (4) provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security such as boarding up broken windows and replacing and repairing locks. In addition to fulfilling program-specific purposes, projects funded under the Recovery Act should be designed to further one or more of the general purposes of the Recovery Act, which are to preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery; to assist those most impacted by the recession; to provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health; to invest in transportation, environmental protection, or other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits; and to stabilize State and local government budgets, in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive State and local tax increases.*

Based on this guidance, ADECA specified the following objectives for Alabama's VOCA ARRA funding:

***OBJECTIVE ONE:*** Retention of existing jobs or the creation of new jobs within VOCA-funded agencies.

***OBJECTIVE TWO:*** Maintaining uninterrupted services or enhancing services to victims as a result of Recovery Act funding.

***OBJECTIVE THREE:*** Improving existing facilities through the purchase of needed equipment, furnishings or supplies that will be utilized exclusively for victim-related activities.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** Since all VOCA subgrantees had received a funding cut with their 2008 VOCA awards, the funding strategy with VOCA ARRA funds was to make the programs whole by restoring them to their previous level of funding. A request for applications for VOCA ARRA funds was sent to all Victims of Crime Act subgrantees on April 29, 2009, with an application deadline of May 21, 2009. The approved standard application of the Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division was used to apply for VOCA ARRA funds.

**VOCA ARRA AWARDS:** Forty-three applications were submitted for VOCA ARRA funds and all forty-three were funded. The Victims of Crime Act requires that no less than 10% of the state's grant be awarded to serve victims of crime in each of the following areas: domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and victims of crime who have been historically underserved. The Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety Division of ADECA has designated victims of rural family violence as one of the state's underserved populations. The following is a breakdown of VOCA ARRA awards:

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** \$334,703.00 AWARDED TO FIFTEEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

**CHILD ABUSE:** \$281,729 AWARDED TO NINETEEN CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS

**SEXUAL ASSAULT:** \$72,046.00 AWARDED TO SIX SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS

**UNDERSERVED:** \$79,122.00 AWARDED TO OTHER PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE SPECIALIZED SERVICES TO CRIME VICTIMS WHO HAVE BEEN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED

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